JOSH HARKINS

Building a Better Community

My name is Josh Harkins (he/him) ‘25 and I’m running for SGA President. I am an International Politics and Economics major studying abroad in Paris through the Middlebury School in France. Before I went abroad, I was the treasurer for the Quadball team and the Otter Nonsense Improv Troupe, and I was the SAO’s Club Sports coordinator.

Freddi Mitchell (she/her) ‘25 and Ahmed Awadallah (he/him) ‘26 are my VP candidates. Freddi is an IP&E major and she was a member of our First-Year Committee and she is serving as the Second Student Constituent Advisor to the College Board of Advisors. Ahmed is a neuroscience major and President of Model United Nations and a member of the Sophomore Committee.

My running mates and I know about the problems Middlebury students face and we have experience working to solve them. We see that Middlebury has a crisis of community and that the lack of a greater community on campus contributes negatively to the overall student experience. The campus can feel isolating. It doesn’t need to feel that way. We have three principal policy focuses to help us build community on campus that will include all Midd kids.

- Clubs. We will work with the Student Activities Office to reduce the bureaucracy around creating and running clubs. Clubs are integral to building and maintaining community and they should be able to easily function and they should work together through cross-club activities and events.
- Student Involvement. We will use SGA oversight to reform MCAB to maximize student input, use SGA resources to research how to increase student engagement, and invest in community spaces, such as dining halls, Crossroads, and the Grille.
- Mental Health. There has never been a greater need for access to quality mental health resources. We will ensure that the administration increases mental health care resources, and particularly resources for BIPOC students. We will also open a dialogue with faculty about their role in supporting students’ mental health as well as create a report on best practices based on research and student perspectives.

If these issues speak to you, please help us solve them and make positive change on Middlebury's campus: **vote for us on Thursday, April 11th.**

Respectfully,